

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Los Angeles

SUBJECT: FOUNDRY ASSOCIATES, INC.
NEUTRALITY ACT
FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT
CONSPIRACY
Bureau File 2-875

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE: January 28, 1949

CLASS. BY

DATE OF REVIEW

Declassified

Authority: 35942 By:
Britney Crawford Date:
04-08-2014

There is herewith enclosed a photostatic copy of a letter page communication bearing the date December 22, 1948, which was received from the Zone Intelligence Office of the Eleventh Naval District, 626 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, California. (C)

The above is furnished for informational purposes.

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

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BMF:iep

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cc: Newark (2-51) (Enc. 1)

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19 November 1948

Dist. Intell. Officer, IOND PRESS.

(a) IOND NWI-96 No. 86-48, MIC 1001-400 of 6/21/48.

B-2

PALESTINE - POSSIBLE EXPORT OF AIRCRAFT TO.
AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION (CIVILIAN & MILITARY).

American citizens to be prosecuted by Federal Government
for illegal conspiracy in exportation of arms and planes
to the Palestine.

The following report is based on the substance of an article
appearing in "El Mundo," Spanish language daily newspaper in San
Juan, Puerto Rico, dated 17 November 1948.

The article, datelined 16 November 1948 at Miami, Florida,
concerned the coming prosecution by Federal authorities of several
American citizens accused of conspiracy in the exportation of arms
and planes to Palestine via Czechoslovakia.

Among those named as the accused was Charles T. WINTERS,
mentioned in reference (a) as the owner of three B-17's which
stopped over at San Juan, Puerto Rico on 11 June 1948 for purposes
of fueling. WINTERS was charged with planning a flight of three
B-17's from Miami, Florida to Zatec, Czechoslovakia on 11 June
1948, and of accompanying the flight.

Also named was Ervin L. JOHNSON, mentioned in reference (a)
as the purchaser of the three B-17's, and one C. L. JOHNSON. It
was stated in the article that these two names were aliases
employed by other members of the group as necessary to meet with
their plans.

James HEANEY, also mentioned in reference (a) as a co-pilot of
one of the B-17's, testified as a government witness before a
Federal Grand Jury, giving details of the flight and of the
organization. It was due to his testimony that the warrants were
issued for the arrest of the others involved.

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11/19/48

DIO-10ND Mono PALMETTO Ser. 137-48 FBI No. 4404.0300 dtd 11/19/48.

BEANE testified that he had joined the organization in Bakersfield, California, where he had been previously employed as an instructor at the Municipal Airport. He said that after several interviews, he was accepted and was promised one hundred dollars per week while engaged in flying planes to Israel.

He stated that on 11 June 1948, he departed Miami, Florida in a B-17 and was accompanied by two other planes of the same type. That after many difficulties, including the forced landing of one of the planes at sea, they arrived at Zatec. According to BEANE's testimony, the airfield at Zatec was staffed with 27 pilots and mechanics of all nationalities.

The names of the others accused are:

Adolph W. SCHWIMMER, alias A. Allen, of Bridgeport, Connecticut, mentioned as organizer of the SCHWIMMER AVIATION CO., of Burbank, California.

Irvin R. SCHINDLER, charged with piloting a fourth B-17 from New Jersey to Santa Maria, Azores.

Abraham J. LEVIN and Leon GARDNER, both residents of North Hollywood, California, each charged with purchasing and piloting one B-17 from Tulsa, Oklahoma to Miami, Florida. These two planes were purchased from a Mr. Donald E. ROBERTS, President of the Universal Aviation Co., Tulsa Oklahoma.

William SOSNOW, alias Leo Gordon, alias "Mr. Leonard," resident of New York.

Michael KANE, resident of California.

Leonard BUTTS, resident of San Francisco, California.

Twenty-one others were mentioned in the federal proceedings as accomplices but have not been named or accused. The trial of the accused is scheduled for 21 January 1949 in the Federal District Court, Miami, Florida.

ND11-322150

Serial 3340

22 December 1948

CONFIDENTIAL
Mr. A. D. Ryan, Special Agent in Charge, FBI-LA

The enclosed copy of an intelligence report from the Naval Attache in Puerto Rico, is also forwarded for whatever bearing it may have on investigations concerning the same activities.

Very truly yours,

A. D. Ryan

A. D. Ryan
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosure

ND11-322H215C-el/fo
Serial 03460

ZONE INTELLIGENCE OFFICE
ELEVENTH NAVAL DISTRICT
FIFTH FLOOR
526 SOUTH SPRING STREET
LOS ANGELES 12, CALIFORNIA



CONFIDENTIAL

22 December 1948

Mr. R. E. Hood, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Room 900, Security Building, 510 South Spring Street, Los Angeles 13, California

Dear Mr. Hood:

The following is quoted verbatim from a confidential dispatch from the Chief of Naval Operations, dated 16 December 1948. The information is believed of possible interest to your office, in connection with investigations of procurement and recruiting activities of Hasaneh. Related reports are believed in your files under "Foundry Associates".

"REFER CHOC 12-13-48 INFO RECEIVED THAT 255 COMBAT PLANES INCLUDING CORSAIRS & BEARCATS HELLDIVERS AND AVENGERS OF WHICH 76 COULD BE MADE OPERABLE AND 236 AIRPLANE ENGINES SOLD BY NAVY AT HARBERS POINT OAHU TH TO ADMIRALTY TRADING COMPANY 122 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE CHICAGO ILLINOIS ON 1 OCTOBER 1948 & CONTRACT CALLED FOR SHIPMENT OF THE AIRPLANES AND ENGINES TO MAINLAND ONLY AND AS SCRAP & THIS SALE CLEANS UP ALL SCRAP NAVY AIRPLANES AND ENGINES IN HAWAII & R. W. BURNS, EDWARD GIERKE AND J. F. PURDY, REPRESENTED ADMIRALTY TRADING COMPANY & REPORTEDLY LORIS BROTHERS INC WOOLWORTH BUILDING NEW YORK WERE INTERESTED IN KNOWING SUCCESSFUL BIDDER & SIMILAR COMPANY 7904 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD LOS ANGELES ALSO REQUESTED NAME SUCCESSFUL BIDDER & INDIVIDUALS AND FIRMS HAVE NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED IN THE FILES OF ONI".

Also quoted verbatim below is reference cited in above dispatch. Reference was dated 12 November 1948:

"INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM AIRFORCE THAT ONE E. BERNACHE OR BORMACHE IS PRESENTLY IN PANAMA CITY WHERE HE IS REPRESENTING HIMSELF AS COLONEL OF ISRAELI FORCES & REPORTEDLY BERNACHE IS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON PURCHASE OF AIRPLANE ENGINES ESPECIALLY ENGINES FOR P51 FIGHTERS & HE HAS ALSO MADE INQUIRIES ON ROUTE TO GET 10 SURPLUS NAVY HELLDIVERS OUT OF HONOLULU INTO PALESTINE WITHOUT STOPPING TO GET FUEL IN ANY US TERRITORY OR POSSESSION & REPORTEDLY HE HAS APPROACHED AVIATORS IN PANAMA AREA FOR PALESTINE RECRUITING PROGRAM & ALLEGEDLY BERNACHE HAS MINTED HE IS CONNECTED WITH IAFSA (SERVICE AIRWAYS) AND IS ASSOCIATED WITH PAUL HALPER OF DANACH'S INTERFIDERS & LEONARD SUMMERS & CAR LEVITT AND ONE FREEDWELL & NO FURTHER INFORMATION ONI CONCERNING BERNACHE".